

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 35, No. 16

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

Aug. 15, 2006

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Adventures abound for area youth

'Camp A' keeps kids smiling

— Pages 8 & 9 —



Brandon Beach

Area youth had plenty to smile about this summer.. Some 25 Camp Adventure counselors infused their magic into U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch's School Age Services and Youth Services programs. Stuttgart's camp ends Aug. 18 with a farewell barbeque on Patch Barracks.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 5

Garmisch observes National Night Out

Joining American communities around the world, U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch makes Aug. 1 a 'National Night Out' to fight crime and promote community security.



Page 10

Summer enrichment program on Patch

Stuttgart area kindergarten through sixth-grade students take part in a DoDDS-sponsored enrichment program July 5 to 28 at Patch Elementary School.



Make sure your voice is heard: Vote this year

The 2006 elections will have a significant impact on the face of our federal and state governments.

This year, voters will elect 36 state governors, 33 U.S. senators, and all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. They will also make their voices heard on a wide range of state and local issues.

As members of the overseas military community, we play key roles in defending democracy. It is just as important for us to keep our democracy alive and strong by exercising our right to vote.

Whether you are assigned to a garrison in Europe or deployed downrange, you have the right to vote – and, in turn, to help shape our nation's future.

Still not sure about registering and voting? Consider the following observations:

- I'm tired of hearing it said that democracy doesn't work. Of course it doesn't work. We are supposed to work it. – *Alexander Woollcott*
- The most important political office is that of the private citizen. – *Louis Brandeis*
- Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. – *George Jean Nathan*

For more information about voting call 421-2959/civ. 0711-680-2959 or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at www.fvap.gov.

CORRECTION

The photo that accompanied the Aug. 1 story about the George C. Marshall Center's alumni conference should have been credited to Karlheinz Wedhorn.

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

'I don't regret one minute' National Guard Soldier looks back on year in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Commentary

On the day I turned 41, the war in Iraq treated me to a wild ride through Baghdad in an up-armored sport utility vehicle.

It was the first of two times during my year-long tour that I would leave the International Zone without the armed, Humvee-led convoy security escort I traveled with on dozens of other missions.

I sat sideways in the rear right seat, facing the tinted window with my M-16, locked and loaded, in a modified ready position. I did my best to stay steady as the driver careened through streets choked with traffic. I thought that it would be a really bad thing to die on my birthday.

I rarely thought about dying while I was there, actually. Traveling in ground convoys were the only times it came to mind, and even then, there were only about three times when danger wasn't just imaginable, but tangible.

One of those put a Combat Action Badge on my uniform. I was with a small unit of Iraqi police commandos in March, convoying to their base in unarmored Nissan pickup trucks when we were ambushed with small arms fire. We barreled through it, returning fire, and nobody on our side was hurt.

I considered myself lucky compared to a lot of others. My luck held steady on my birthday, June 23, 2005, and we arrived safely at the Special Police Forces Academy in Baghdad.

From my arrival at Baghdad International Airport on Super Bowl Sunday 2005 through the following January, I served as a public affairs specialist with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

I volunteered to go without my Florida National Guard unit after learning about the command, its mission and its urgent need for a military journalist. The opportunity to show through words and photographs what United States and coalition forces were doing to help rebuild Iraq's military and police forces was something I couldn't pass up.

I was the lone journalist for most of my tour, traveling the country to seek out stories and images of Iraqi soldiers and police officers building their ranks, going through training, receiving and maintaining new or donated equipment, bonding with U.S. and Coalition advisers and "doing the deal" with operations outside the wire.

I also put out a weekly Web-based publication called "The Advisor."

My first overnight mission was to an Iraqi military base in the southern tip of the country for a recruiting drive for the Iraqi Army. Officials were hoping for 6,000 potential recruits. The best conservative estimate came to about 20,000.

As the sun rose, men of all ages spilled out of cars and buses near the base entrance and walked several miles to the first checkpoint. When one or two picked up the pace, others followed. Soon, men were running. Most were barefoot.

One of my favorite stories is about a small company of female Iraqi military police serving on a small base in Baghdad. Unlike their male counterparts, the women could not live on the base. They left their homes wearing civilian clothes early each morning, changed into their uniforms when they arrived at the base, and then changed back for the journey home at night. Most were married and said they had the full support of their husbands and parents.

One woman, however, said her husband divorced her when she joined the Army. Her parents were helping her to raise her two young children. Months later, I saw her at a conference where she was working security. I asked her how her children were. She said she hadn't seen them in four months.

Word had somehow gotten out that she was serving in the Army, and she began receiving death threats. She left her home to protect her family.

It boggles my mind to think of serving my country under

One of the hardest things about going over as an individual is coming home alone, leaving friends and colleagues behind. Life seems leisurely now, and I sometimes feel a bit guilty that I'm home and they aren't. But I know it won't be that way forever.

those kinds of conditions. There aren't many days that go by that I don't think of her and say a little prayer that she's OK.

One thing is for sure: I'll never take for granted the incredible support that citizens lavish on Soldiers in this country.

When I'm completely honest, I will admit there were a few times when I questioned my sanity for volunteering to go over there. The doubts came when I was physically overwhelmed – trudging through blinding sandstorms that colored the sky a burnt orange; schlepping camera gear, a laptop and accessories, an overloaded backpack (my knitting accompanied me everywhere, just in case I had down time) and of course, my M-16, on missions and slopping through endless streams of mud and muck during the rainy season.

Fortunately, my overall experience was filled with more positive experiences than negatives. I don't regret going over there for one minute.

Never in my life have I felt like I was contributing to something greater than myself than I did in Iraq.

We sent out "The Advisor" every Saturday, and by Monday there were e-mails from new readers – civilian and military – thanking us for telling a side of the war they weren't aware of. (Current and past issues of the Advisor can be found on the MNSTC-I Web site at www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil.)

I also appreciated being a part of the most unique and diverse group of people I've ever encountered. MNSTC-I was a melting pot of soldiers and civilians from at least a dozen other countries.

I also became good friends with an Iraqi man who works for the Ministry of Defense. The Marines had nicknamed him "Danny." We worked similar jobs and went on several missions together. On our first mission, we were the only two people on a bus shuttling us from the landing zone at the Kirkush Military Training Base to a graduation ceremony for Iraqi soldiers who were completing basic training. That's when we began to bond.

The Sunday before I left, Danny brought his wife and four children to say goodbye. I had met his two sons, ages 3 and 10, and his 11-year-old daughter a few times before. We visited for about 30 minutes and then went outside for a few photos. Danny and I hugged. I told him that I would come back one day when I could come to his house for dinner.

As I walked away, his daughter called out one of the new English phrases she learned for the occasion: "See you soon!" I lost it.

One of the hardest things about going over as an individual is coming home alone, leaving friends and colleagues behind. I have a hard time watching the news. It only makes me worry about them. Life seems leisurely now, and I sometimes feel a bit guilty that I'm home and they aren't. But I know it won't be that way forever.

My 42nd birthday is a week away, and it appears I'll be spending it in a comfortable hotel in Jacksonville, Fla., providing public affairs support for an annual National Guard conference. There won't be a convoy for this mission, but car pooling is a possibility. Here's hoping my biggest worry is deciding who selects the radio station.

This commentary originally appeared on the Army News Web site, www.army.mil/arnews.

IMA-EURO director visits Stuttgart

Installation management leader tours area facilities, meets with local officials

By Hugh C. McBride

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and his wife, Gaby, hosted Installation Management Agency Europe Region Director Russell Hall and his wife, Lexie, for a day-long visit to tour area installations and facilities and meet with local military officials July 25.

"We really appreciated the opportunity to have Mr. and Mrs. Hall spend the day in our community," Juergens said. "The regional director and his wife have always been extremely supportive of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart."

Hall started his day on Kelley Barracks, where he met with Juergens; Dr. Stephen Cochrane, U.S. Forces Liaison Officer-Baden Württemberg, and a number of USAG Stuttgart directorate heads and staff members.

After briefings on Kelley related to the garrison's long-range plans and local strategies for dealing with Armywide funding constraints, Hall and Juergens headed to Patch Barracks for a lunch meeting with U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward.

Mrs. Hall's visit focused on the garrison's family-support services. In addition to getting an up-close look at some of the area's childcare facilities, she and Mrs. Juergens also spent time with Family Advocacy Program Manager Betsy Walker, who briefed them on a local initiative to link U.S. community members with free family-support services provided in English by German organizations in the area.

Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Juergens and Walker also discussed local programs to support the families of deployed service members and to assist new mothers who are suf-



Hall



Juergens

New command to manage Army installations

Army News Service

The Army is reorganizing how it manages installations worldwide into an integrated command with the activation of the Installation Management Command in early Fiscal Year 2007.

The new Installation Management Command will serve as the Army's single authority and primary provider of base support services.

"This new command is the next logical step in the evolution of Army installation management," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

The Army Environmental Center and the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center will remain as separate organizations that will be subordinate to the Installation Management Command.

For more information about the Installation Management Command visit www.army.mil/arnews.

fering from postpartum depression.

After the afternoon's meetings and briefings, the Halls and Juergenses reunited on Panzer Kaserne for a tour of facilities including the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, the Community Welcome Center, the Child Development Center and the construction site for the AAFES shopping mall that is set to open in February 2007.

After a visit to the community's inprocessing center, Hall stood outside the Stuttgart Welcome Center, looked toward the future site of the premiere on-post retail complex in Europe, and described Stuttgart as "a great place for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and families to live. I'm very proud of everyone on this [USAG Stuttgart] team who have worked so hard together to make this happen."

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Recent incidents in Germany and the United Kingdom have prompted U.S. European Command and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart to issue travel advisories to members of the overseas military community.

These advisories – and, as events warrant, updates and additional related information – are also available on the USAG Stuttgart Web site, www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Air Travel

On Aug. 10, security officials announced that they had thwarted a terrorist plane aimed at several flights departing London's Heathrow Airport for the United States.

Individuals with planned travel through the United Kingdom are urged to monitor the U.K.'s Department of Transport Web site, www.dft.gov.uk, for travel advisories and restrictions.

Travelers can expect delays in commercial travel through other European cities as well.

All U.S. military personnel in Europe are reminded to be watchful of suspicious activity and to monitor the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State Web sites for threat warnings and other travel-related advisories.

Germany

On July 31, improvised explosive devices were discovered in unattended suitcases in train stations in Dortmund and Koblenz, Germany.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and U.S. European Command advise all community members to exercise increased vigilance when traveling or using public transportation.

Remember: Keep alert at all times, and if you notice anything out of the ordinary, report it to the proper authorities.

Off-post throughout Europe, dialing 112 will put you in touch with emergency personnel.

For more information about this advisory visit www.eucom.mil or www.travel.state.gov.

Online Resources

For the most up-to-date travel advisory information, visit the following Web sites:

- U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – www.dhs.gov
- U.S. State Department – www.travel.state.gov
- U.S. European Command – www.eucom.mil
- USAG Stuttgart – www.stuttgart.army.mil
- U.K. Dept. of Travel – www.dft.gov.uk

BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION

Important Notice to Parents

If you have not registered your children for school yet, it is crucial to do so as soon as possible.

* Children who will ride a bus to school must also be registered for bus transportation. *

For information about the registration process call the school your child will attend (phone numbers listed below).

Patch Elementary School	RB Elementary/Middle School	Böblingen Elementary/Middle School	Patch High School
School Day • 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	School Day • 8:10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Elementary) • 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. (Middle School)	School Day • 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Elementary) • 8 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. (Middle School)	School Day • 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
Main Office • 430-5200/civ. 0711-680-5200	Main Office • 420-7112/civ. 0711-819-7112	Main Office • 431-2715/civ. 07031-15-2715	Main Office • 430-7191/civ. 0711-680-7191
New Family Orientations • Aug. 21 (10 a.m. or 3 p.m.) • Aug. 22 (10 a.m. or 3 p.m.)	New Family Orientations (2 p.m. each day) • Aug. 22: K to 5 • Aug. 24: 7th grade • Aug. 23: 6th grade • Aug. 25: 8th grade	New Family Orientations • Aug. 16: Elementary (4 p.m.) • Aug. 17: Middle School (4 p.m.)	New Student Orientation • Aug. 25 • Call the main office for times
Open House • Sept. 7 (5 to 9 p.m.)	Open House • Sept. 7 (Time to Be Announced)	Open House • Sept. 7 (Time to Be Announced)	Open House • Aug. 28 (Time to Be Announced)

For more information about Stuttgart-area schools contact Joyce Kennedy (U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart School Liaison Officer):
Office Phone: 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465 – Handy: 0174-248-9905 – E-mail: joyce.kennedy@us.army.mil



Karlheinz Wedhorn

Sue Ferrare

Karlheinz Wedhorn

Marshall Center troops hit the field for Common Task Testing

Soldiers from the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch got a chance to test their basic soldier skills on July 28 when they took a Common Task Test at the Keans Lodge near Artillery Kaserne.

[Main photo] Sergeant First Class Renee Iniguez looks through a compass to check the next point during the land navigation portion of the test.

[Inset, top] Spc. Robert Pierson replaces the bolt for his M16 correctly during the weapon maintenance portion of the test.

[Inset, bottom] Iniguez watches while Sgt. 1st Class Taher Almosadder (left) wraps a bandage around the arm of Spc. Robert Pierson while performing First Aid for a bleeding extremity.

Cultures take center stage at Garmisch event

Story by Sue Ferrare

About every three months or so, Marshall Center faculty and students in the Marshall Center Program in Advanced Security Studies have the opportunity of experiencing many country's customs and food without ever leaving Garmisch.

The venue for this multi-cultural event is the Pete Burke Community Center on Artillery Kaserne. Marshall Center students, who come from dozens of countries from North America, across Europe and Eurasia all the way to Mongolia, gather there to show off what their nations have to offer by setting up a table with food, drinks and anything else that might show others what their country is like.

According to Ric Cantu, chief of Marshall Center Office of Admissions, it's one of the most popular programs for the Marshall Center students as well as the staff and families. He said that even though many people on the staff have been to a few of the Culture Nights "they always want to come back."

"There is always something unique that a prior Culture Night didn't have," he said. "There is always a new student who might come from a different region of that country than the previous student and [that student] will have a different kind of food or presentation."

Ric spoke about how the night familiarizes the students and faculty with each other's culture and enhances class cohesion.

Anna Grabowska, a student from Poland commented on how "it was a very good way for her to understand other nations and where the people came from." She also said that looking at the food from the different countries showed her what some of the countries had in common.

"I could tell that some of us had common origins and

With so many countries here you realize that what you think is the norm or what you'd expect throughout the world isn't the case.

Col. Mark Hodgson

Director of Professional Development, Canadian Army

backgrounds," she said. "It showed me that I never realized how much we had in common."

While talking with another student, Grabowska found out that a dish common to Poland was also common to a country far south of Poland and probably came to Poland with the Jews who migrated there.

"But it was even more important to see the other students in their native costumes, with their traditional food – almost like seeing them in their natural environment," she said. "It gave us a chance to look at them from a different perspective than when we were in class."

Col. Mark Hodgson, director of Professional Development for the Canadian Army, agreed that it was a great chance for everyone to "show off the best of their countries, which we don't get to do so much during the course, because we're on a fixed program.

"People were very proud of their tables and displays," he continued. "And when you came around they were proud to have you see, experience, taste the food, whatever."

While Grabowska learned about the common ground she

had with other students, Hodgson was amazed to find out how much he didn't know and had to learn about these other countries.

"I thought I knew a lot about the world until I came here," he said. "Only when you live and work day by day with so many different nationalities that you realize how much you really don't know about the world."

Each day has been a learning experience in terms of the knowledge and experience or perspectives on the world. With so many countries here you realize that what you think is the norm or what you'd expect throughout the world isn't the case."

Overall, Cantu said everyone usually enjoys the Culture Nights because they are fun as well as educational.

"Students get a chance to tell you things about themselves and their culture as well as what their country has to offer," he said. "It's a learning experience for everyone."

For photos of the Marshall Center's Culture Night celebration visit www.garmisch.army.mil.



[Top Left] Lt. Col. Peter Lee performs fingerprinting duties while completing a Child ID kit during Garmisch's Aug. 1 National Night Out observance. [Bottom Left] Chandler Lofland has his cheek swabbed in order to compete the DNA portion of his Child ID Kit. [Center] With assistance from Pfc. Charles Schuerman, Josh Elliot attempts to navigate a line while wearing "drunk goggles" in the Pete Burke Center. [Right] Martin Brewer applies a choke hold to Dave Rosenmarkle during a martial arts demonstration on self-defense at Garmisch's Aug. 1 National Night Out event

Garmisch takes 'Night Out' to fight crime

Force protection, community safety & security at forefront of event on Artillery Kaserne

Story & photos by Sue Ferrare

Face painting and drunk goggles, hot dogs and Jui Jitsu demonstrations were the hits of the evening although the overall message of National Night Out was one of community safety.

Residents and community members of the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch met Aug. 1 in the Pete Burke Community Center for National Night Out, or 'America's Night Out Against Crime,' to strengthen their community ties and to learn more about how to keep their community safe.

National Night Out was the brainchild of National Association of Town Watch Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. To heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts, Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed.

He proposed National Night Out as a national program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations – but would involve entire communities at one time.

"The main focus of this event is to get people out to mingle and also give them important information about safety within the communities," said Armond Williams, the Garmisch Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program Coordinator.

"It was a good way to get out and meet a lot of our neighbors that we haven't met through other ways," said Michele Lee, a new resident to the Garmisch community. "This being such a small community I think it's really important to get to know all of your neighbors."

The premise of the event is to get people out there so that they could meet and greet and talk to each other. Neighbors who know each other look out for each other.

Armond Williams

Garmisch Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program

Although it is traditional on National Night Out in the United States to keep your lights on and maintain front porch vigils, activities on military posts have expanded to include many other parts of the community.

This year's event included tables that provided Child ID Kits, information on drug awareness, fire prevention, motorcycle safety and self defense as well as other activities for children and adults to participate in.

Lee said she did the Child ID Kit for both of her children. "That's a great resource," she said. "We probably wouldn't

have done something like that on our own.

"They had great information (at the event)," she continued. "I think it was presented in an interesting way, it wasn't just tables with flyers on them."

Williams classified this night as a success.

"The premise of the event is to get people out there so that they could meet and greet and talk to each other," he said. "I'm thinking that neighbors who know each other look out for each other. I think we did that."

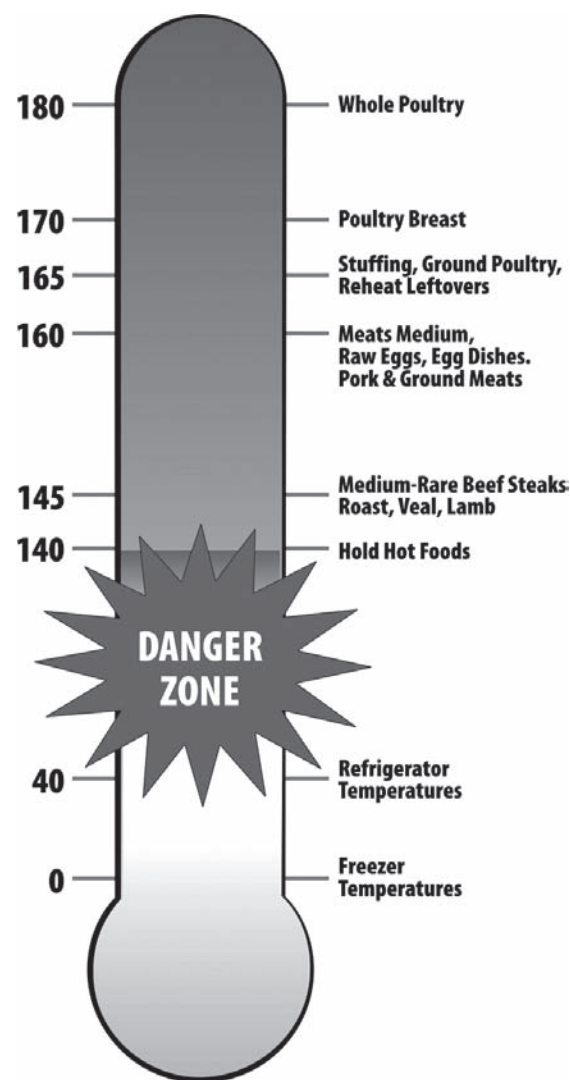
For more information about the National Night Out program visit www.nationalnightout.org.

For more about U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch visit www.garmisch.army.mil.

Warm weather increases risk of foodborne illness

By Jennifer Keefer

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center



More than 300,000 Americans are hospitalized each year – and 5,000 die annually – from foodborne illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The risk of foodborne illness increases during the summer because disease-causing bacteria grow faster on raw meat and poultry products in warmer weather, said Dr. Richard Raymond, U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary for food safety. Bacteria also need moisture to flourish, and the hot and humid conditions of summer weather provide the perfect conditions.

Especially when grilling outdoors, it becomes even more important to take the necessary steps to prevent foodborne illness and bacteria growth.

According to the USDA, most bacteria are attracted by temperatures between 40 degrees and 140 degrees. Food should not sit out for more than two hours in temperatures below 90 degrees. Above 90 degrees, food should be discarded after one hour.

Staff Sgt. Lance Osborne, the non-commissioned officer in charge of food inspection with Veterinary Services Food Safety at Fort Rucker, Ala., emphasized the importance of temperature, as well as sanitation.

“Definitely, never partially cook something with the intention of finishing it up later,” said Osborne. “This is where bacteria are more apt to grow. As for sanitation, never use the same plate for raw and cooked food, especially poultry. This can result in cross-contamination.”

Several global outbreaks of foodborne illness, such as mad cow disease and E. Coli, have increased concerns among the American public, according to a food and water safety report developed by the CDC. Most consumers said in the report they feel they are at a lower risk from illnesses eating at home than at restaurants. Twenty percent of the reported cases involving foodborne illness resulted from home preparation.

The USDA advocates the following four steps to help prevent the spread of bacteria:

- **Clean** – Wash hands and surfaces often;
- **Separate** – Don’t cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat and poultry apart from cooked foods. Don’t use the same cutting board, platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat;
- **Cook** – Use a food thermometer to be sure meat and poultry are safely cooked. Visual indications, such as brown exterior, do not always mean that it is fully cooked; and
- **Chill** – Promptly refrigerate or freeze uneaten food.

Fortunately, according to the USDA, people rarely become ill from contaminated food because most people have a healthy immune system that protects them not only from harmful bacteria on food, but from other harmful organisms in the environment. But consumers can further protect themselves at home with proper refrigeration and thorough cooking of perishable food.

The USDA also offers pointers for defrosting and marinating food. Never defrost food at room temperature – the refrigerator is the most recommended place to defrost food.

If time is restricted, consumers can seal meat in a plastic bag and place it in cold water for 30 minutes. As a last resort, consumers can defrost meat in the microwave as long as it is grilled immediately. As for marinating food, the USDA suggests never to marinate it at room temperature and never reuse the sauce.

This article originally appeared online at www.army.mil/arnews. For more safety information call the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

HEALTH CARE CORNER

Sports/CDC/School Physicals – August 30 (8:30 a.m. to noon) – Patch Barracks

Call 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or visit the clinic’s central appointment desk.

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations

Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care

Every Tuesday

Laboratory

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams

Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care

Every Wednesday

Appointments

430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online
Visit www.tricareonline.com

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments

430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments

440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note

Dental services are extremely limited for patients other than active-duty service members and their families.

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart – 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827

Troops test system to help beat the heat

Army News Service

The Army's Rapid Equipping Force has delivered 500 Body Ventilation Systems to heat-stressed Soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait.

The portable, lightweight ventilation system will help reduce heat-related injuries, and will undergo one of year assessments by such Soldiers as drivers, military police and machine gunners. Another 1,700 vests will be shipped and issued to Soldiers in similar units and duty positions in upcoming months.

"The BVS project is another example of how the Army culture is changing in order to provide warfighter solutions in a timely manner," said Col. Gregory Tubbs, REF director. "It also provides another example of how much good can be accomplished when Army organizations like PEO Soldier and the Rapid Equipping Force team to help the warfighter."

The BVS weighs less than five pounds and can be worn under body armor. Air circulates inside the vest to increase the Soldier's comfort and performance in hot-dry climates by significantly increasing the evaporation rate.

The BVS has two main components – a Ventilation Unit (VU) and an Air Distribution Garment that looks like a vest. The VU, or blower, is a battery powered fan that can be attached in a variety of positions to meet the Soldier's need and comfort.

The filtered blower system fits neatly into a pouch

The system weighs less than five pounds and can be worn under body armor. Air circulates inside the vest to significantly increase the evaporation rate.

and is similar to a fanny pack.

"It definitely keeps me cool," said Sgt. Mark Waits, an M1114 gunner with the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment. "I don't feel as fatigued after a mission in the BVS."

The BVS operates approximately 8 hours with commercial lithium rechargeable batteries, with a recharge time of 4-5 hours.

Filters are the system's primary maintenance.

"When GlobalSecure approached us with their quick, simple and reliable BVS design, I knew we could work with and count on the REF to get it to Soldiers," said Col. Richard Hansen, director, Project Manager Soldier Warrior.

GlobalSecure was selected among other vendors for its overall quality and product design, service, timeliness and price.

"If the warfighters need it, then I won't rest until I explore every option to meet those needs," Tubbs said.

This article originally appeared on the Army News Web site (www.army.mil/arnews).



Sgt. Mark Waits, an M1114 gunner assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, puts on his Individual Body Armor with the Army's new Body Ventilation System. The advanced prototype BVS is being tested in Iraq and Kuwait for one year

CUSTOMS UPDATE

Officials warn: Don't buy ivory overseas

By Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs Office

U.S. personnel should not buy elephant ivory while stationed or vacationing overseas, customs officials advise. Imports of ivory into the United States are prohibited under the Endangered Species and the African Elephant Conservation acts.

"The ban applies both to unprocessed ivory tusks and worked ivory pieces such as carved figures, jewelry or piano keys," said Bill Johnson of the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency. However, exceptions exist for:

- Bona fide antiques more than 100 years old which can be imported with a valid permit;
- African elephant ivory that the owner registered with U.S. Customs before leaving the USA that is being re-imported; and
- African elephant ivory items acquired before Feb. 4, 1977, when accompanied by a valid permit.

Johnson added that there are also no restrictions on the import of ivory from the extinct elephant-like mammals known as mastodons. Owners of items partially or totally made from mastodon ivory should obtain a statement of origin from the manufacturer stating that the article is mastodon ivory, not subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Title 16 US Code.

Ivory acquired abroad that is not a properly documented antique can be confiscated when it arrives in the USA. Customs do not refund the purchase price and can fine the owner.

More information on ivory and other endangered species issues is available online at www.fws.gov.

For customs-related questions in Stuttgart and Garmisch call 431-2731/07031-15-2731

EUCOM-sponsored visit designed to bring aid, hope to African nations

By Evin Page

*U.S. European Command
Public Affairs Office*

School supplies, toys, and clothes were delivered to several African nations by Joyce Ward, wife of U.S. European Command Deputy Commander, Army Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, July 16-21 during a visit to the continent.

The African countries included Senegal, Cameroon and Gabon.

During the trip, Mrs. Ward, accompanied by EUCOM representatives and African embassy escorts visited two orphanages, two hospitals, a community library and a youth action agency.

Supplies were distributed to the locations in efforts to provide aid and oversee the needs of the countries.

"The main goal for me was to see in all our areas, what kind of education is offered," she said. "I think, by far, the expectations are being exceeded."

The visiting party witnessed improvements at the Cameroon Maison de Savoir Library where enrichment programs are being offered to children as well as various other educational activities.

In Senegal, at the Hospital Fann HIV wing, Mrs. Ward and visitors learned that HIV prevention education programs are available to patients and community members.

The hospital also features an extensive vegetable garden that supplies food for hospital patients.

"There's never going to be enough [supplies]," said Mrs. Ward, referring to the donations the EUCOM team brought to the African nations.

Joyce Ward, the wife of EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, EUCOM representatives and African embassy escorts visited two orphanages, two hospitals, a community library and a youth action agency.

"But we could have gone with half [of the supplies] we brought and they still would have been received just as well," she said. "There is always a need in these countries for more assistance."

"We want to tell their story. We want to let people know what's going on, what EUCOM's people are doing in Africa, what Americans are doing in Africa, and what African's are doing to help themselves," Air Force Major C.C. Masotti, EUCOM trip coordinator for the deputy commander said.

Page, a student James Madison University, worked in the EUCOM Public Affairs Office as part of the annual Summer Hire program.

Read more about the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart 2006 Summer Hire Program in the Aug. 28 edition of The Citizen.

For more about EUCOM visit www.eucom.mil.

Summer fun in Stuttgart

Adventures abound for campers, counselors



Meaghan Ambelang, age 7, paints one of the nine planets that make up the solar system during a Camp Adventure arts and crafts project Aug. 4 at the Kelley Barracks' School Age Services.

Be careful going in search of adventure, it's ridiculously easy to find.
- William Least Heat-Moon

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Stuttgart's School Age Services and Youth Services didn't have to search far this summer to find adventure. It arrived in June when University of Northern Iowa deployed some 25 Camp Adventure staff members to infuse their "magic" into the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child and Youth Services 2006 Summer Camp.

With its curriculum of daily arts and crafts activities, exploding science projects, sports and fitness games and weekly field trips to places like Holiday Park and Stuttgart's Planetarium, Camp Adventure leaves behind plenty of memories for children to talk about when they return to school.

"They've [camp counselors] been fantastic all summer. They've been great capturing the kids' interests, reliable and always willing to help out," said Kelley SAS child and youth program assistant Bill Meyer.

Theory to Practice

Founded in 1985 at the University of Oregon, Camp Adventure started with the simple idea of creating a non-profit organization that would provide recreation and leisure camps to youth.

The program gives university students (typically majoring in an educational field, but all majors are welcome) a chance to integrate classroom knowledge into a real-world setting, or in this case, an international setting.

Program organizers felt there was no better platform to launch this idea than with the U.S. military, with families stationed around the globe at remote sites including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Spain, Holland, England, Turkey and Iceland.

Add free round trip plane fare to this list of exotic travel hot spots, and suddenly students will be lining up to fill out a recruitment application.

"I jumped on it," said Marcus Watson when he first learned of the program. "I hadn't been out of the South, really, before Camp Adventure."

This year marked the second consecutive tour to Germany for Watson, a health and physical education senior at Albany State University who worked at Patch SAS. "I always wanted to stand at the top of the Eiffel Tower and this summer I did," he said. Paris was just one of many weekend getaways for Watson, who used a Eurail youth pass to get him around.

The first Camp Adventure contract led to three camps on military installations in Korea. The program now boasts more than 600 trained staff from more than 80 participating universities. These individuals deploy to more than 180 sites worldwide to provide quality camps to youth.

During the academic school year, camp recruits dive into a rigorous training program where they spend 60 unpaid hours to learn their craft and develop that infectious spirit. Counselors arrive on site certified in first aid, CPR and lifeguard training, and armed with a jukebox-sized catalog of over 100 catchy camp songs.

"They get stuck in your head for months after camp is over," said Marissa Lenting, a veterinarian science major at Washington State University who has been singing for Camp Adventure for the last two years. In 2005, she soaked up sun and surf on Hawaii's Oahu Island, as she worked at a youth center on Pearl Harbor's Camp Catlin.

Camp staff departs to sites, such as military installations, U.S. embassies and some private organizations, as early as May. They live in military housing units ranging from makeshift tents to four-star hotels.

In Stuttgart, the majority of staff is housed in dorm-like rooms on Robinson Barracks. Others bunk in the Swabian Inn on Patch Barracks and the housing quarters on Kelley Barracks.

Worldwide Opportunities

Student-managed is a philosophy that instills Camp Adventure with its spirit. Even at the top administrative levels, one can find a fresh face from program directors, program coordinators, day-camp counselors, teen specialists, water safety instructors and lifeguards – all ready to deploy to a military community.

In 2005, Amber Worrick completed her bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Iowa and now works as the area's program director. She serves as a valuable communication link between USAG Stuttgart CYS administration and the frontline camp counselors.

Between CYS sites in Garmisch and Stuttgart, Worrick has logged nearly 1,000 miles on the Autobahn managing all the nuts-and-bolts issues such as making sure counselors safely get off the plane and helping them check into their living quarters, purchase phones, find their way around town and send packages home.

At the close of the Stuttgart camp on Aug. 18, Worrick will continue working for the organization as the project coordinator in Key West, Fla., where she'll be responsible for recruiting and training energetic newcomers.

"It takes someone who is passionate about children, creative and open-minded to join," she said.

Camp counselor Sara Steffen sees Camp Adventure as a chance to populate



[Above] With its curriculum of daily fine arts activities, like playing guitar as Joey McPherson, age 10, demonstrates, Camp Adventure leaves behind plenty of memories for children to talk about when they return to school. [Left top] Camp counselor Charvelle McClendon takes a whack at the ball at a miniature golf course as Joel Strowbridge of Kelley SAS watches on.

We're all young, and we love to do crazy off-the-wall stuff like Jello fights and bobbing for apples in chocolate pudding.

Melanie Waters
Camp Counselor, Patch SAS

her teaching resume and further her German language skills, a foreign language requirement at her school.

"It's giving me a head start," said Steffen an art education senior at the University of Northern Iowa, who noted she would love to return to Germany to work as a Department of Defense Dependent Schools teacher.

Steffen had many opportunities to practice her newfound vocabulary as she and Charvelle McClendon, the project coordinator at Kelley SAS, spent many of their evenings at Stuttgart's Schlossplatz, where they would take congas and tambourines and drum with *fussball* fans from all over the world.

"I've never experienced such a huge cultural event as the World Cup. I never knew that people could push their politics aside just to play soccer," said McClendon, a psychology and sociology major at Florida A&M University. "We might not have spoken the same language, but we understood each other through the music."

Camp counselor Melanie Waters has been jet setting with Camp Adventure for the last two years. Her previous location was Yokota, Japan.

"Never in my wildest dream did I think I'd be in Japan," said Waters, an elementary education senior at the University of Northern Iowa who worked at Patch SAS.

"We're all young, and we love to do crazy off-the-wall stuff like Jello fights and bobbing for apples in chocolate pudding," she said.

It is this spontaneity that keeps Waters and other camp enthusiasts returning every summer in search of another exotic location and the start of a new adventure. Benefits far exceed the daily stipend, they note.

The program benefits are numerous: Staff receive 12 hours of university credit at reduced cost, free airfare to and from site, basic lodging at no cost, a \$22 a day stipend for food and other expenses and the immersion into a foreign country.

With more than 180 sites to choose from, the most difficult decision for any camp jet setter is deciding where to go.

For more about Camp Adventure visit www.camp-adventure.uni.edu.



Camp counselor Sara Steffen and Anna DeCecco, a second-grader at Patch Elementary School, take a leisurely ride on a camel Aug. 4 in the hills near the Black Forest in Waldeck.

Students stay ahead during summer break, Patch Elementary offers enrichment program

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Remember when summer break meant doing nothing. These days kids try to stay ahead.

Just ask CJ Doria how long Michelangelo had to lie on his back suspended in the Vatican's ceiling rafters to paint the Sistine Chapel, and the third-grader is quick to point out, "1,460 days."

That's 365 days times 4 years.

Doria, along with 64 other kindergarten through sixth-grade students, took part in a four-week enrichment program at Patch Elementary School that wrapped up July 28.

This is the second year that the Department of Defense Dependent Schools has funded such a program. Last year's focus was math and science.

This year, students delved in the fine arts, with topics ranging from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

"These are topics that the teacher doesn't always have time to cover during the school year," said Elizabeth Casciaro, who taught a K-3 class and served as the school's acting principal.

Just down the hall, in Theresa Senna's K-3 classroom, students learned from each other.

At the start of an activity, Senna would read a list of instructions to a "team leader," who then repeated the steps to the younger "path finders" in the group.

On one particular day, Kate Sweetser, a first-grader at PES, and her group work on an assignment called "Monet Math," a color-by-numbers activity.

Kate holds up three fingers, takes a good hard look at them in the air and then folds them up one by one.

She repeats her steps. Same result.

"Is this right," she asks, flashing her balled-up hand toward Brandon Butcher, a third-grader who sits across from her.

Brandon walks over to the other side of the table and holds up three fingers of his own and then subtracts them away.

"It's zero. See there's nothing there," he says.

She is quick to point to the top of the page and directs him to the color legend. There's no color for zero.

There is silence for a few moments, and then Brandon has an idea.

"Just use any color," he says.

Kate seems satisfied with the answer and reaches to the middle of the table to grab a marker.

"They try to solve problems by themselves in their own groups," said Senna. "When a child has to teach something, say to a younger child, they're learning the material much better a second time through."

Janelle Alquist, a literacy coach at Robinson Elementary School, found that pairing students of different age groups together encouraged them to take responsibility for their work.

"The idea of student helpers gives them ownership of the material," she said. "They can work together; ask each other questions, instead of the teacher being seen as the source of all answers."

First advertised in January of this year,



Brad Taylor, a second-grader at Patch Elementary School, adds up several colored blocks before him to solve a math problem. Taylor, along with 64 other kindergarten through sixth-grade students, took part in a DoDDS-sponsored summer enrichment program July 5 to 28 at PES.

6 *It gives us more time for creativity and lets kids explore music and art without the pressures of testing and grades.*

Janelle Alquist
RES Literacy Coach

the program came at no cost to parents and was open to those students who didn't need to repeat a grade level.

The half-day program began at 9 a.m. and finished by noon. There were four K-3 classes and one with fourth- through sixth-grade students.

Many teachers said they were encouraged to see continued DoDDS-support for enrichment programs. At PES alone, enrollment numbers were nearly 20 percent higher than last year, according to Casciaro.

With a focus on enrichment, most teachers said they appreciated the positive learning environment felt throughout the four weeks.

"It gives us more time for creativity and lets kids explore music and art without the pressures of testing and grades," said Alquist.



[Top] Brandon Butcher, a third-grader at Patch Elementary School, helps Kate Sweetser, age 5, understand a math problem July 28. During this summer's enrichment program at PES, students learned from each other. "They try to solve problems by themselves in their own groups," said Theresa Senna, a K-3 teacher.



[Side] Third-grader Hannah Smith throws up her hand to answer a question during a class discussion on Michelangelo Buonaroti July 28 in Elizabeth Casciaro's K-3 class.

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Davis defends men's 'Superstars' title

Barksdale tops women's division with record-setting day



Alison Petersen soars to second place (finishing one-half inch behind new record holder Michele Barksdale) in the long jump.



[Above] Brian Broussard completes a lift en route to a second-place finish (behind George Brockman) in the bench press portion of the Aug. 5 Superstars competition.



[Left] Women's champion Michele Barksdale and two-time men's champ Chris Dennis.

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

Stuttgart's second "Superstars" competition was both a coronation and a coming-out party.

In the men's division of the Aug. 5 competition on Patch Barracks's Husky Field, Chris Dennis solidified his hold on the Superstars crown, defending the title that he earned during the inaugural event in May.

On the women's side of the bracket, Michele Barksdale announced herself as a force to be reckoned with, placing first – and posting record-setting results – in all five events in which she entered.

Twenty-two potential Superstars competed for the title, with each selecting five events from a pool of nine. (Points were awarded to the top five finishers in each event.)

Dennis finished "in the money" four times (first in the softball throw, football throw and free throws; fourth in the long jump), giving him the edge over runner-up David Davenport.

On the women's side, Barksdale made it easy on the scorers (if not the competition) by setting records in the 100-meter dash, long jump, football throw, softball throw and bench press. Robin Hess finished second.

For more about the Superstars – including a complete list of men's and women's records – visit the Patch Fitness Center.

So much more than 'just a run'

Marathon, Music Fest set for Sept. 8-9

By Hugh C. McBride

One of Stuttgart's most high-profile (and high-energy) community fundraising events is re turning to Patch Barracks Sept. 8 and 9.

The 24-Hour Marathon & Music Fest's 17th annual appearance on Patch's Husky Field will start with a ceremonial opening lap at noon Sept. 8 and will operate round-the-clock until (you guessed it) noon the following day.

(Though billed as a 24-hour event, the marathon actually extends a bit beyond one day's worth of time. The opening ceremony is slated to start at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 8 and the post-run award ceremony will wrap up about 12:30 p.m. the following day.)

Part community celebration, part fitness extravaganza, part charity fundraiser, the Marathon & Music Fest's primary purpose is to help support organizations that serve youth in the Stuttgart area.

Organizations such as the Sitzmarkers Youth Ski & Snowboard Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Piranhas Swim Team are among the many youth-oriented groups that have benefitted from previous marathons.

For all the details about the marathon – including how to enter, how to volunteer, and how to purchase T-shirts (\$15 for adults, \$10 for children) – call 430-8217/civ. 0711-680-8217 or e-mail tobinc@eucom.mil.

Schedule of Events

The 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest offers much, much more than a chance to spend a day of your life running in circles:

September 8

- 11:30 a.m. – Welcome remarks by EUCOM Commandant's Office Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Tobin.
- 11:35 a.m. – German & U.S. national anthems
- 11:45 a.m. – Invocation
- 11:50 a.m. – Opening remarks by USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens
- Noon – Marathon begins
- 3 p.m. – The Ted Mack All-Stars
- 4:30 p.m. – Groove Machine
- 6 p.m. – One Brick Shy
- 8:30 p.m. – Elida Reyna (Grammy-nominated artist presented in conjunction with USAG Stuttgart Equal Opportunity Office & Directorate of MWR)

September 9

- 9 a.m. – Raffle drawing
- 10 a.m. – Belly dancing performance
- 11 a.m. – Raffle drawing
- Noon – Marathon ends
- 12:15 p.m. – Award ceremony and closing remarks by EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. William E. Ward

24 HOUR MARATHON
2006 & MUSIC FEST
STUTTGART, GERMANY

Stuttgart named European Sports Capital, to host world championship events in 2007

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Cars first put Stuttgart on the world map. Next year, sports will place the city on center stage.

Stuttgart was named the European Sports Capital for 2007, edging out bids from three major cities including Rotterdam, Holland; Warsaw, Poland; and Palermo, Spain.

With the honor, the city is poised to host several major international sporting events in 2007.

Stuttgart prides itself in its sports history, most recently, the FIFA World Cup. The city held six games in the Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium, including the third-place finals.

In 1987, the Tour de France peloton rolled into town. Several years later, the city staged the World Championship in Athletics, an event where decathlete Dan O'Brien and sprinters Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Michael Johnson all won gold.

Every year, two professional tennis tournaments, the Mercedes Cup (men) and the Porsche Grand Prix (women), take center court in Stuttgart.

This year's Mercedes Cup was held July 15 to 23 at the Weissenhof Tennis Club, located near the Killesberg Messe. Spain's David Ferrer won a five-set five-hour final.

The Porsche Grand Prix will take place at the end of September.

Last year, the city drew up a bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games, which was later awarded to London.

The city is also home to numerous professional sports clubs. VfB Stuttgart competes in the *Bundesliga*, Germany's first league and the Stuttgarter Kickers bang the soccer ball in the *Regionalliga Süd*.

There's even a team, the Scorpions, that play the other brand of football most familiar to Americans, the more padded version.

Next year, several major sports events will take center stage in Stuttgart, and tickets are already going fast.

Upcoming events

• The **Handball World Championships** will take place Jan. 20 to 22, 2007 in Stuttgart's Porsche Arena.

Not a wildly popular sport in the States, handball, with its blend of basketball and soc-

cer elements, is enormously popular in Europe and boasts some of the most loyal and loudest fans.

The atmosphere can rattle like a rock concert. Some 24 teams from around the globe will compete in this championship series.

For more information visit www.handball-wm-2007.de.

For tickets visit www.ticketcorner.com. Already half of the 350,000 tickets have been sold.

• The world's top gymnasts vault their way toward top honors during the **Gymnastics World Championships** Sept. 1 to 9, 2007 in Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle.

It is estimated that over 75,000 people will travel to Baden-Württemberg's capital city to cheer on their favorite tumbler, according to www.stuttgart.de.

The tournament serves as a direct qualification for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Peking, China, so the stakes will be high.

Some 1,200 gymnasts from over 80 countries are estimated to compete.

Tickets cost 15 to 75 euro depending on seating. For more information visit www.turn-wm.de.

• The world's top pedalers will compete in the **UCI Road World Championships** Sept. 25 to 30, 2007. The race will take place near Stuttgart's Killesberg Messe on a criterium-format race course, known to racers as a "crit."

For more information visit www.radwm2007.de. Stuttgart last hosted this type of race back in 1990.

• The **IAAF World Athletics Final** will be held Sept. 9 to 10, 2006 in Stuttgart's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium.

Athletes from all over the world will jump, sprint, throw and vault their way toward gold.

For tickets visit www.easyticket.de or call 0711-2555-555. For more information visit www.weltfinale.de.

Stuttgart will host this event for the next three years, or through 2008.

For more information on these and other events visit www.stuttgart.de and click on the sports link.



Stuttgart is home to several pro sports clubs including the Stuttgarter Kickers [top] and the Stuttgart Scorpions [above]. The city also hosted six matches during the FIFA World Cup finals, including the Dutch fans.



SPORTS CALENDAR

Scorpions football

The Stuttgart Scorpions square off against second-placed Marburg **Aug. 26, 6 p.m.**, in Degerloch's Gazi Stadium.

Both teams look to tackle a spot in the upcoming German Football League playoffs, which begins in September.

Several members of the Stuttgart military community are on the roster.

To get to the stadium, take city train U7 to the Waldau stop or drive in direction to the television tower, a visible Stuttgart landmark.

For more information visit www.stuttgart-scorpions.de.

Bundesliga starts

Catch live Bundesliga action when VfB Stuttgart takes to the field against Borussia Dortmund **Aug. 26, 3:30 p.m.**, in Bad Cannstatt's Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium (S-Bahn Neckarstadion).

For tickets visit www.vfb-stuttgart.de

or stop by the stadium's ticket box on game day.

Bowling for strikes

The women's top European bowlers aim for strikes at this year's European Championships **Aug. 24 to Sept. 3** in the Dream Bowl Bowling Center in Böblingen.

For more information visit www.ewc2006.dbu-bowling.de. The center is located at Leibnizstrasse 18.

Pro tennis in Stuttgart

The world's top female tennis players slug it out for top honors at this year's Porsche Grand Prix **Sept. 30 to Oct. 8**, in Stuttgart's Porsche Arena.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport, world's number 1 ranked player, will make another run at the prize chest, which includes among other things a brand new Porsche.

For tickets visit www.porsche-tennis.de.



STUTTGART 2007



UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

www.radwm2007.com

The world's top pedalers compete in the UCI Road World Championships Sept. 9 to 10, 2007. The criterium-format race, known to racers as a "crit," will take place near Stuttgart's Killesberg Messe. The city last hosted this event in 1990. (Logo courtesy of in.Stuttgart).



Thrill seekers let out a scream as they plunge down the Express, a rollercoaster at Legoland Park in Günzburg.

Legoland entices with thrill rides, hands-on learning

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Three eight-studded Lego pieces can be put together in 1,560 ways. Imagine if you had more than 50 million of those tiny plastic pieces at hand. Welcome to Legoland Park in Günzburg, Germany, located one hour by car from Stuttgart.

Overshadowed at times by the larger vertical dips and faster hairpin turns found on rollercoasters at Europa Park (near Freiburg) and Holiday Park (near Mannheim), Legoland boasts the same type of thrills for kids and adults, just on a slightly smaller scale.

That scale starts with 1 centimeter by 1 centimeter, or the dimensions of a common Lego brick.

Opened in 2002, the park is a tribute to this tiny interlocking wonder, invented way back in 1949 by Danish carpenter Ole Kirk Christianson.

Today, the Lego industry manufactures and sells over 20 billion bricks a year, according to the Wikipedia Web site, meaning its just as cool to own a Lego set as it is an iPod.

At the heart of the park is the "Miniland" attraction, which invites visitors to take a stroll through numerous Lego-sized replicas of world landmarks such as the port district of Hamburg, the canals of Venice and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The craftsmanship is simply amazing.

At the steps of the *Reichstag*, Germany's version of the White House, Lego party people boogie down to pulsing techno music during the Love Parade, an annual street music festival held in Berlin. More than just a Lego display, the site characterizes the universal clash between rigid bureaucracy and free-spirited individualism.

Last year, the park unveiled a minia-

ture version of the Allianz Arena, home to the Bayern Munich soccer club and host of the first game of the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Lego "engineers" snapped together over 400,000 pieces to construct the stadium. Standing before the model, visitors enter the world of German football, with cheering fans and referee whistles heard over loudspeakers and red flares lighting up in the stands.

This year, the park unveiled a replica of the Munich airport, with a massive Airbus A380 sitting on one of its numerous runways.

First-time visitors will want to take a leisurely safari ride through the exotic Adventureland, where giraffes, gorillas, crocodiles and elephants spring to life around every corner.

For a hands-on learning experience, the Build and Test Center invites visitors to craft Lego models and test their resistance to natural disasters such as earthquakes of differing magnitude. The results are sure to surprise kids and adults alike.

Just the facts

Located in the sprawling Bavarian countryside, the park situates itself between Stuttgart and Munich.

By car, take Autobahn 8 and exit Günzburg. Trains run frequently on weekends from Stuttgart. For bargain hunters, try the *Schönes Wochenende* ticket at 28 euro to get you to and from the park.

The cost for a day pass is 30 euro for adults and 26 euro for children under 11 years old. A yearly pass runs 59 euro for adults and 49 for children.

The park is open daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The season runs through Nov. 5.

For more information visit www.lego.com.



[Above] Kristian Hernandez takes a photo atop a Lego sculpture

[Below] One of the park's many other Lego creations.



OUT & ABOUT

In Vino Veritas!

The city of Ludwigsburg celebrates the 26th edition of its popular wine festival, called the *Ludwigsburger Weinlaube*.

The festival is a chance to celebrate the fruits of Baden-Württemberg's 2000-year old wine-making tradition and sample a glass of Riesling or cozy up to a plate of *Käsespätzle* (Swabian cheese noodles) or *Kraut Schupfnudeln* (potato noodles with cabbage).

The heart of the festival lies in the plaza in front of the *Rathaushof* (city hall). Festival highlights include daily live music with oldies and swing bands hitting the stage and numerous food and drink booths.

To get there, take city trains S4 and S5 to the Ludwigsburg stop, which is a short walk to the festival grounds. Open daily from 5 to 11 p.m., the fest runs through **Aug. 24**.

For more information visit www.weinlaube-ludwigsburg.de.

Mamma Mia!, the musical

SI Centrum's Palladium Theatre presents the musical smash comedy, *Mamma Mia!*, featuring 22 of ABBA's greatest hits (sung in German).

Tickets range from 40 to 139 euro depending on seating and may be purchased by calling 01805-4444.

The theatre is located on Pleningerstraße 100, which is a short 5-minute walk from the Kelley Barracks main gate.

To get there, take city train U3 to the Salzacker/SI-Erlebnis-Centrum stop. City buses 74 and 75 will deliver you to the Landhaus stop.

For more information on dates and times, visit www.si-centrum.de.

Dance comes to Liederhalle

Germany's top professional ballroom dancers take center stage as they twirl their way to top honors at this year's German Open Championship **Aug. 15 to 19**, in Stuttgart's Liederhalle.

For tickets, visit www.liederhalle-stuttgart.de or call 07052-932490. Liederhalle is located at Berliner Platz 1-3. To get there, take city trains U9 or U14 to the *Berliner Platz* stop.

Hardcore at LKA/Longhorn

Sick Of It All, a long-standing hardcore group from New York, hits the stage with music from their new album "Death to Tyrants" **Aug. 18**, 8 p.m., in Stuttgart's LKA Longhorn.

Tickets cost 13 euro and may be purchased at www.skssruss.de.

Voted one of the best rock clubs in Germany by "Vision" magazine, Longhorn is located at Heiligenwiesen 6 in the Wangen district.

LL Cool J to play Böblingen

Rapper LL Cool J (alias "Ladies Love Cool James") brings his hip hop chops to Germany for the first time ever with a stopover in Böblingen's Sporthalle **Oct. 4**, 8 p.m.

The New York rapper is on tour with a fresh new album "Todd Smith" but is sure to play classics such as 1991's "Mama Said Knock You Out" and 1988's "Going Back to Cali."

Tickets cost 48.50 euro and may be purchased at www.eventim.de.

Opening acts include German rappers Afrob (from Stuttgart) and Lisi.

Photo exhibit at IFA

Germany's leading institute on foreign cultural relations is headquartered right here in Stuttgart.

This month, the *Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*, or IFA, hosts the photo exhibit, "*Fotografen entdecken!*," a visual journey through Austria and New Zealand and parts of Southeast Asia.

The gallery is located on Charlottenplatz 17. To get there, take city train U5 or 6 to the Charlottenplatz stop.

Opening hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, noon to 6 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Additional evening hours are Thursdays until 8 p.m.

For more information visit www.ifa.de. The exhibit is open until **Aug. 20**. Entrance is free.

Community Activities Registration & Education Expo

2 0 0 6



Get to know **WHO** does **WHAT** in your community!



Saturday, Aug. 26
Patch Fitness Center
1000-1400



Over 50 organizations attending
from Stuttgart & the surrounding community!



Sign up for activities, classes & clubs in one room!



Don't forget to visit the Women's
Equality Day Booth at the Care Fair!



For more information, contact ACS DSN 430-7176 / Civ. 0711-680-7176

